HOUSEPLANTS

Alocasia species

Common names: Elephant's Ear, Cabeza de Burro, Malanga de Jardin, Malanga Cara de Chivo, Chine Ape, Papao-Apaka, Papao-Atolong, Taro

Description: Erect perennial with long stemmed, spearhead-shaped leaves. Flowers appear on a greenish stem.

Toxic Part: The leaves and stems are injurious.

Symptoms: Chewing of plant part causes a painful burning sensation of the lips, mouth, tongue, and throat.

Angel Wings (see *Caladium bicolor*)

Caladium bicolor

Common names: Caladium, Angel Wings, Caladio, Cananga, Capotillo, Couer Saignant, Corazon de Cabrito, Heart-of-Jesus, Lagrimas de Maria, Mother-in-Law Plant, Paleta de Pintor.

Description: Showy, variegated, heart-shaped leaves. Color may vary from white to orange or red depending on species.

Toxic Part: The whole plant is injurious when ingested.

Symptoms: Intense irritation of the lips, mouth and throat.

Calla Lily (see *Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

Candelabra Cactus (see *Euphorbia lactea*)

Dieffenbachia species Press here for image

Common Names: Dumbcane, Camilichigue, Dumb Plant, Mother-in-Law's Tongue Plant.

Description: Tall, erect plants with large oblong leaves splotched with ivory markings.

Toxic Part: Leaf

Symptoms: Chewing on the leaf produces immediate intense pain followed by swelling of the mouth.

Elephant Ear (see *Alocasia* species)

Epipremnum aureum Click here for image

Common Names: Pothos, Amapalo Amarillo, Devil's Ivy, Golden Ceylon Creeper, Golden Hunter's Robe, Golden Pothos, Hunter's Robe, Ivy Arum, Malanga Trepadora, Solomon Island Ivy, Taro Vine, Variegated Philodendron

Description: Climbing vine with large heart-shaped leaves that are usually streaked with yellow.

Toxic Part: The whole plant is injurious.

Symptoms: Causes diarrhea upon ingestion. Also causes dermatitis when touched. Causes burning sensation in mouth when eaten.

Euphorbia species

E. lactea Click here for image

Common Names: Candelabra Cactus

Description: Many-branched succulent, spiny shrub or tree with milky sap and wing-like spiny ridges.

Toxic Parts: Leaves, stems, and milky sap.

Symptoms: When ingested, causes severe irritation of the mouth, throat, and skin; temporary blindness; vomiting; diarrhea; and stomach pain.

E. marginata

Common Names: Snow-on-the-Mountain

Description: Tall annual herb with milky juice, growing up to 3 feet in height. Leaves are lance shaped and smooth, bordered by conspicuous white margins. Flowers are bordered with a whorl of white petal-like leaves. Fruit is 3-celled 3-lobed capsule.

Toxic Parts: Leaves, stems, and milky sap.

Symptoms: When touched, causes blistering of the skin. When ingested, causes severe irritation of the mouth, throat, and stomach; nausea; abdominal pain; fainting; and diarrhea.

E. pulcherrima

Common Names: Poinsettia, Christmas Flower, Christmas Star, Easter Flower.

Description: Large green stem leaves and smaller but showy red, pink, or yellow leaves surrounding the flowers. Fruit is a 3-celled, 3-lobed capsule.

Toxic Parts: Leaves, stems, and milky sap.

Symptoms: When touched, causes irritant dermatitis. If ingested, may cause gastritis.

Jerusalem Cherry (see *Solanum seudocapsicum*)

Mother-in-Law-Plant (see *Caladium bicolor*)

Orchid (see *Cypripedium* species)

Poinsettia (see *Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

***Philodendron* species** Click here for image

Common Names: Philodendron

Description: Climbing vines with aerial roots. Leaves large and variable, the most common being heart-shaped.

Toxic Part: Leaves

Symptoms: When ingested, causes painful burning of the lips, mouth, tongue, and throat. Contact dermatitis is common.

Solanum pseudocapsicum

Common Names: Jerusalem Cherry, Coral

Description: Mostly herbs or shrubs. Are often spiny, hairy, or have stinging hairs. Berries are black, orange, yellow, or red.

Toxic Part: Entire plant, especially the berries.

Symptoms: When ingested, causes gastric irritation, scratchy feeling in the throat, fever, and diarrhea.

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Common Names: Calla, Calla Lily, Lirio Cala.

Description: Smooth-edged arrowhead-shaped leaves which grow on long stalks. Flower may be white or green.

Toxic Part: Leaves are injurious.

Symptoms: When ingested, causes intense burning of the lips and mouth. Also direct irritant dermatitis.